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ray

Entries 1 to 10 of 32. [Next 10](#)

ray[1,noun]

ray[2,noun]

ray[3,verb]

Ray

Ray[1]

bat ray

beta ray

cathode ray

cathode-ray tube

cosmic ray

Main Entry: ²ray

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French *rai*, from Latin *radius* rod, ray

Date: 14th century

1 a : any of the lines of light that appear to radiate from a bright object **b** : a beam of radiant energy (as light) of small cross section **c** (1) : a stream of material particles traveling in the same line (as in radioactive phenomena) (2) : a single particle of such a stream

2 a : light cast by rays : **RADIANCE** **b** : a moral or intellectual light

3 : a thin line suggesting a ray: as **a** : any of a group of lines diverging from a common center **b** : **HALF LINE**

4 a : one of the bony rods that extend and support the membrane in the fin of a fish

b : one of the radiating divisions of the body of a radiate animal (as a starfish)

5 a : a branch or flower stalk of an umbel **b** (1) : **MEDULLARY RAY**

(2) : **VASCULAR RAY** **c** : **RAY FLOWER** **1**

6 : **PARTICLE**, **TRACE** <a ray of hope>

— **rayed** **1** \ˈrād\ *adjective*

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